News from Representative Randy Hultgren



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Bills Into Laws

2017 was a big year in Congress, and I was proud to work on your behalf for Illinois.

DIDYOUKNOW? **544** BILLS **477** BILLS **378** BILLS Passed the Stuck in Passed the Senate House committee 2 more than Obama's 1st 3 more than Obama's 1st +82 more than Obama's 1st +132 more than average 55 more than average more than average DidYouKnow.gop

Dozens of these bills were passed by both chambers and signed into law by President Trump. Click here for a summary of public

laws enacted last year during the First Session of the 115th Congress.

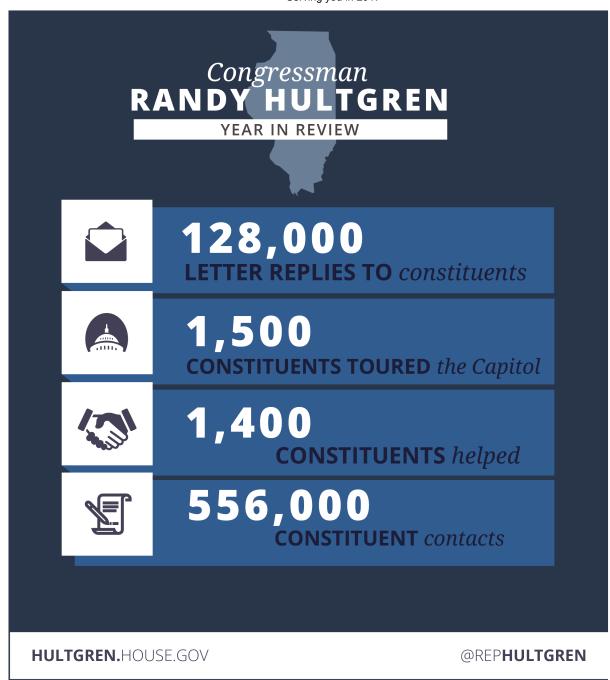
Here's a snapshot of our work on the Financial Services Committee, including the dozens of bills passed by the House that will help Main Street grow and prosper:



Serving You Snapshot

In addition to working on legislation on your behalf in Congress, one of my privileges as your representative is to serve you as your liaison to the federal government—which covers everything from providing tours of the U.S. Capitol for constituents visiting Washington, to solving issues you might have with federal agencies like the Social Security Administration and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Below is just a snapshot of how my office and I have served the 14th District this past year. If you ever need help with a federal agency, plan to visit Washington, D.C. or simply want to get in touch, please don't hesitate to reach out and let my staff and I know how we can help.



More Good News Following Tax Reform

H.R. 1, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, was signed into law a few weeks ago and is already helping out Illinois workers and their families. 2,000,000 workers nationwide and counting are already seeing the benefits including bonuses, pay raises and their companies promising new investments.

Already:

U.S. Bank is giving its employees a \$1,000 bonus, increasing its minimum wage to \$15 per hour and donating \$150 million to charity. The bonus will be given to 3,001 employees in Illinois alone.

<u>Apple announces plans to repatriate billions in overseas cash, paying \$38 billion in taxes, and contributing \$350 billion to the U.S. economy.</u>

Click here for an ongoing list of companies taking direct action as a result of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act:

https://www.majoritywhip.gov/taxreformworks

My Take on President's Comments on Countries Receiving Temporary Protected Status

I strongly disagreed with President Trump's reported choice of words regarding countries who have received Temporary Protected Status (TPS) following natural disaster. Words like these diminish and undermine our standing in the world as a trusted partner and beacon of hope.

The difficult humanitarian, economic and political situations in certain countries following natural disasters is exactly why I support a program for Temporary Protected Status which provides safe harbor following these unavoidable calamities. I believe we must set good policy for our country while remaining a refuge to displaced peoples facing humanitarian crisis. I support the desire of TPS recipients living in the United States to return to the home they love where they can thrive. However, until their countries can adequately reintegrate their citizens, which U.S. law requires, we should extend protections for these individuals and families living here in the United States.

Background:

The program to provide Temporary Protected Status (TPS) allows the U.S. federal government, following a natural disaster in a foreign country, to allow displaced peoples to come to the United States. That designation should be extended if, according to the law, "the foreign state is unable, temporarily, to handle adequately the return to the state of aliens who are nationals of the state."

For example, in a statement after a November 2017 visit to El Salvador, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights said, "from January 2015 to February 2017, more than a thousand civilians and 45 police officers were killed in armed confrontations between the police and alleged gang members. There are also alarming reports of extrajudicial killings and the return of death squads." Such violence is forcing displacement within El Salvador as well as migration, demonstrating El Salvador's inability to reintegrate TPS recipients into the country.

I <u>have pushed</u> the administration <u>to extend TPS status</u> to displaced peoples from El Salvador and Honduras living in the United States. The Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission held a hearing and received testimony detailing the difficult situation throughout Central America, <u>available here</u>.

Here's what I told Soledad O'Brien on Matter of Fact TV, which airs on CBS 2 Chicago:



(Click picture to watch video)

VA Taking Steps to Improve Payment Turnaround Time for Community Providers

I welcomed <u>actions by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs</u> (VA) to improve the timeliness of payments to community providers of VA healthcare. Delayed VA payments to medical providers have led to a host of problems, including adverse effects on the credit scores of veterans. I am glad the VA is taking my concerns seriously and taking a broad approach to ensure providers of VA care get reimbursed for the care they provide, and veterans are held innocent of bureaucratic clumsiness.

I previously <u>led a letter to VA Secretary Shulkin</u> requesting an explanation for these delayed payments, with a particular concern for veterans who may have had adverse credit actions taken against them due to their participation in the Veterans Choice Program.

Legislation is still needed to protect veterans' credit scores from poor performance by the VA and its contractors. I urge the House to take up and pass my bill <u>H.R.2683</u>, the <u>Protecting Veterans Credit Act of 2017</u>, to ensure our veterans get the care they need without their credit scores becoming collateral damage.

If you haven't already, be sure to <u>like my Facebook page</u>, follow me on Twitter (@RepHultgren), or <u>check out my YouTube page</u> to stay informed on everything I'm doing on your behalf in Washington and in Illinois.

In Your Service,

Randy Hultgren Member of Congress 14th District, Illinois

Randy in the News

- <u>Bipartisan Illinois criticism follows Trump's comments on Haiti,</u> <u>Africa</u> (Daily Herald)
- <u>Congressman Randy Hultgren Disagrees with Recent</u>
 <u>Comments Made by President Trump</u> (WSPY News)

- Congressman Randy Hultgren on Taxes, Veterans, STEM, and More (WROK AM1140)
- Hultgren makes strong mark on nation's new tax law (The Ripon Advance)
- Rep. Hultgren: It is Not Safe for Salvadorans, Central Americans to Return Home (Matter of Fact TV)
- <u>US places Pakistan on a special watch list for religious freedom violations</u> (Economic Times)



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